

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. – 3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~barrier-cover~~ guard rail assembly of claim 19, wherein the advertising display is a message of stenciled letters.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~barrier-cover~~ guard rail assembly of claim 19, wherein the advertising display is an electrical/electronic circuit comprising one or more lighting elements configured to display a message or image.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~barrier-cover~~ guard rail assembly of claim 19, wherein the advertising display is one or more magnetically mounted objects of a ferro-magnetic material disposed on metallic surface.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~barrier-cover~~ guard rail assembly of claim 19, wherein the advertising display is hook-and-loop materials or a chalkboard surface.

8. (Previously Presented) A cover for a tubular metal guard rail of the type having two below-ground ends and an above-ground midsection connecting the two ends, the cover consisting of:

a molded, structural plastic article having spaced-apart front and back panels, each panel having a corresponding bottom edge;

the front and back panels being joined along all edges except the bottom edges thereof, leaving an elongated slot open at the bottom to receive the metal guard rail in slip-fit engagement such that the bottom edges are adjacent the ground surface.

9. (Previously Presented) The cover of claim 8, wherein each side panel is arc-shaped when viewing the front or back.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A cover for a tubular metal guard rail of the type having two below-ground ends and a substantially semi-circular above-ground midsection connecting the two ends, the cover comprising:

a molded, structural plastic article having front and back panels, each panel having opposing bottom edges connected to a semi-circular upper portion corresponding to the semi-circular midsection of the guard rail;

the front and back panels being joined on all sides except the bottom edges thereof, leaving a slot open at the bottom to receive the metal guard rail in slip-fit engagement such that the bottom edges are adjacent the ground surface;

wherein at least one of the front and back panels includes an advertising display; [[and]]

a fastener for securing the cover to the guard rail[.]; and

wherein the front and back panels smoothly transition through semi-circular side edges corresponding to the tubular metal guard rail.

12. - 15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) A cover for a tubular metal guard rail of the type having an outer diameter, two below-ground ends, and a substantially semi-circular above-ground midsection connecting the two ends, the cover comprising:

spaced-apart front and back panels, each having a flat bottom edge and a semi-circular upper portion;

wherein the semi-circular upper portions of the front and back panels smoothly transition through an integrally formed semi-circular side edge corresponding to the outer diameter of the tubular metal guard rail, leaving a slot open at the bottom to receive the metal guard rail in slip-fit engagement such that the bottom edges are adjacent the ground surface; and

a fastener for securing the cover to the guard rail.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) The protective cover of claim 16, wherein at least one of the front and back panels includes an advertising display.

19. (Currently Amended) A guard rail assembly, comprising:

a tubular metal guard rail of the type having an outer diameter, two below-ground ends, and a substantially semi-circular above-ground midsection connecting the two ends;

a guard rail cover including two spaced-apart, ~~opaque~~, front and back panels, each having a flat bottom edge and a semi-circular upper portion; and

wherein the semi-circular upper portions of the front and back panels smoothly transition through an integrally formed semi-circular side edge corresponding to the outer diameter of the tubular metal guard rail, leaving a slot open at the bottom to receive the metal guard rail in slip-fit engagement such that the bottom edges are adjacent the ground surface.

20. (Currently Amended) The ~~protective cover~~ guard rail assembly of claim 19, further including a fastener for securing the cover to the guard rail.

21. (Currently Amended) The ~~protective cover~~ guard rail assembly of claim 19, wherein at least one of the front and back panels includes an advertising display.

22. (Canceled)